Contradictory Statements emanating from MoD

†1085. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a sense of fear among general Public about the defence of the country due to various kinds of statement being issued by Defence Ministry and its senior officers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the lack of coordination between Defence Minister and the Chief of the Defence Services is the main reason behind it; and

(c) if so, whether Government will farmulate any policy to prevent the issuance of such type of statements and making correct statement with regard to the matters related to the defence of the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is perfect harmony and coordination between Defence Minister and the Chiefs of three Services.

(c) Does not arise.

Handing over administrative responsibility of cantonment to military officials

†*1086. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that administrative responsibility of the Cantonment Councils is being handed over to military officials by winding up councils;

(b) if so, whether a new mechanism is being developed by connecting Cantonment Councils and MES; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the arrangement for residents in this system?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.